



September 2006

Brunswick County gets a jump start with two grants

\$370,000 in funding to complete first segment of countywide system

Brunswick County, NC (July 12, 2006) – In 2004, the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program worked with officials to complete a comprehensive greenways and blueways plan for Brunswick County and 11 municipalities. This summer, Brunswick County Planning officials received two grants worth \$370,000 from the NC Coastal Management Program. These grants will be used to complete two trail heads on the first segment of the county wide greenways and blueways system, providing for new recreational opportunities and new river access.



When fully constructed, the system will offer residents over 150 miles of multi- use trails and several hundred acres of protected open space. For more information, please contact Bill Lane, Landscape Architect, at bill_lane@nps.gov or 404- 562- 3175.

A Series of Firsts for the Ft. Sill Private Lands Initiative

Novel partnership leads to conservation

Lawton, OK (July 2006)

- First 300 of 20,000 acres permanently conserved by a landowner
- First statewide land trust formed
- First acquisition funding for a conservation easement from the state of Oklahoma



These “firsts” were accomplished by the Ft. Sill Private Lands Initiative, a public- private partnership between the United States Army, National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, State of Oklahoma, City of Lawton and other local governments, Land Legacy of Oklahoma (the first statewide land trust in Oklahoma), Lawton- Ft. Sill Chamber of Commerce, private landowners, and a number of other community stakeholders. Facilitated by RTCA, this partnership has protected critical habitat, agricultural viability, and provided for future recreation opportunities while ensuring the sustainability of Ft. Sill. “RTCA’s support and involvement have been crucial to creating an

atmosphere of constructive communication and cooperation,” said Robert Gregory, Executive Director of Land Legacy. “RTCA brought the stakeholders to the table, helped us identify our common interests, and coached the creation of the funding model. We could not have achieved this milestone without RTCA’s involvement.” For more information, please contact Steve Bonner, Community Planner, at steve_bonner@nps.gov or 512- 245- 7263.

Grand Opening of West Penn Trail’s Kiski Extension Conemaugh Valley Conservancy celebrates more miles!

Saltsburg, PA (June 24, 2006) - Celebrations abounded on the West Penn Trail, located along the Conemaugh River in southwestern Pennsylvania. The new Maguire Bridge over Blacklegs Creek was dedicated to honor Jack Maguire for his unprecedented dedication to the design and construction of the trail. This bridge effectively extended the trail several miles to the west, along the Kiski Extension. Afterward,



supporters and volunteers rode their bikes eastward to the Conemaugh Dam for a volunteer recognition program. Over 50 people showed their appreciation, including Conservancy President Len Hess, Indiana County Commissioner Bernie Smith, and 8 members of the Maguire Family who traveled from as far as Florida for the event. Successfully developing 15.3 miles of trail in 12 years, the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy has been leading the West Penn Trail project, implementing the challenging Conemaugh River Greenway Concept Plan, since 1994. This Plan was prepared in 1993 with the assistance of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, in collaboration with the US Army Corps of Engineers, and was based on public input. For more information, contact Peggy Pings, RTCA, mpings@wvu.edu or 304- 293- 2941 x2446.

Towpath Trail Links to Downtown Akron New segment greeted with enthusiasm



Akron, OH (June 28, 2006) - The City of Akron joined its partners to open what is, to date, the most expensive and difficult mile of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. This section now links downtown Akron north along a contiguous trail that reaches into the City of Cleveland through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Project partners include Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, Cascade Locks Park Association, NPS, and the Ohio &

Erie CanalWay Coalition. The trail heads south from the popular Mustil Store Trailhead along a steep segment of canal lands through the heart of Akron's historic rubber industry. The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program has worked with the local partners on the canal corridor trail concept since 1989. This new segment is an important trail link between Cleveland, New Philadelphia, and eventually Cincinnati. For additional information, please contact Paul Labovitz, Midwest RTCA Program Leader and Ohio Project Manager at or paul_labovitz@nps.gov or 330- 657-2950.

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of National Park Service recreation and conservation programs. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project. This e-mail newsletter may be copied or redirected; our staff would be pleased to assist your editor in adapting any of these stories for your publication. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please call (202) 354-6900 or e-mail sally_grate@nps.gov
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